

The Life of World War One Veteran Harold Sumner Small  
By Connor T. Shaw

Harold Sumner Small was born on March 10, 1887 in Richmond, Maine.<sup>1</sup> He lived in Richmond and later in York during his childhood with his mother Ida E. Small, and his grandmother Sarah H. Small.<sup>2</sup> Harold never knew his father, Augustus E. Small, because his mother, Ida, divorced shortly before or shortly after his birth. The Small family appeared to come from money because, according to the 1900 United States Census, Ida did not work, and neither did Sarah, his grandmother, yet they could still afford to pay a housekeeper to clean their household. That being said, Harold did work a bit for local farms, once he was old enough, as a farmhand.<sup>3</sup> The amount of money he would make however would be barely enough to get by, so extra money was coming from somewhere. In 1906, at the age of nineteen, Small began attending Bowdoin College. In 1910, Small completed his bachelor's degree in Economics and the Arts, and graduated cum laude, with honors.

Form B-1 (For old records only)

**COPY OF AN OLD RECORD OF A BIRTH**

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child's Name Harold S. No. 1  
 Date of Birth Mar. 10, 1887  
 Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Living or Stillborn \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. of Child, 1st, 2nd, etc. 1  
 Father's Name Augustus E. Small  
 " Color \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 " Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
 " Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Maiden Name Ida E.  
 " Color \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
 " Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_  
 " Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Source of Record Town Book  
 State of Maine \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the birth recorded in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature Richard



Harold Sumner Small, '11.

Left: Copy of Harold Sumner Small birth certificate

Right: Photo of Harold Sumner Small in 1911, a year after graduating from Bowdoin College

Shortly after graduating from Bowdoin College, Small met a young lady from New York City named Viola Crouch. Viola came from a family with means, and young Harold Small was swept of his feet. It is unknown how they first met, but they were perfect for each other, and quite happy when together. On April 8, 1911 Harold Small and Viola Crouch married in New York with Viola's parents blessing.<sup>4</sup> The two newlyweds would remain in New York City for about a year. Then, once their first and only child, a son, Harold Sumner Small Jr., was born they decided to move up north closer to Harold's family. The family of three would move to Portland, where Harold received a job from Briles and Sewall as a bond salesman.<sup>5</sup> Viola stayed at home to take care of Harold Jr., while Harold was the only source of income for the family. The family would reside at 48 West, and Harold would work for Briles and Sewall at 84 Exchange Street in Portland until Harold is drafted in 1917.<sup>6</sup>



Viola and Harold in Wellesley, Massachusetts



Harold Sumner Small Jr.'s Birth Certificate

On January 5, 1917 Harold Small was drafted into the United States Army. Harold argued that he should be exempted from the draft due to his work as a bond salesman being the only source of income for his family. Unfortunately, his argument was deemed not to be a strong enough case, and was too common an issue. Many soldiers that fought in the war were the only source of income for their families, so therefore Harold was forced to enlist.<sup>7</sup> Harold Sumner Small served in Battalion A of the 1st Maine H.F.A, or Heavy Field Artillery division. While he served, he rose to the position of Sergeant within his Battalion.<sup>8</sup> His heavy artillery division was absorbed into the 26th regiment, and were given mortars, and thus renamed the 101st Trench Mortar Battery.<sup>9</sup> Harold was admitted to an army hospital and died before his changed names,

and before his brethren were shipped out for France. Harold was admitted into the Camp Greene Base Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina on November 25, 1917, and died eight days later on December 3, 1917. His cause of death was acute lobar pneumonia.<sup>10</sup> Acute lobar pneumonia is an extreme form of pneumonia that causes the destruction of a lung within eight days to three weeks after symptoms show if the patient is not treated. Therefore, Harold Sumner Small never saw any action overseas due to an inopportune illness leading to him passing away. His division fought on the front lines of the Western Front in France from February 1918 until the Armistice was signed on November 11 the same year.<sup>11</sup> Harold, unfortunately did not make it home to see his son Harold Jr. grow into an adult.

Form 1		951 REGISTRATION CARD 2144 No. 184	
1	Name in full	Harold Sumner Small	Age in yrs 30
2	Home address	48 West Portland Maine	
3	Date of birth	March 10 1887	
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	natural born	
5	Where were you born?	Richmond Maine	US9.
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?		
7	What is your present trade, occupation, art, or office?	Bond Salesman 26	
8	By whom employed?	Byrne & Duane	
9	Where employed?	84 Exchange St., Portland Me.	
10	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)?	wife and one child	
11	Married or single (which)?	married	Race (specify which) Caucasian
12	What military service have you had? Rank	none	branch
13	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	wife & child dependent	
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
Harold S. Small (Signature of registrant)			

18-1-10. A.	
REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)?
2	Color of eyes? Color of hair? Bald?
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is otherwise disabled (specify)?
I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
President <u>7-1</u> City or County <u>Portland</u> State <u>Maine</u> <u>June 5, 1917</u> (Date of registration)	

Harold Sumner Small's Draft Card 1917

North Carolina State Board of Health  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
281

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

County Mecklenberg 60  
Township Base Hosp. Camp Greene  
City Charlotte, N.C. Registration District No. 60-5792 Certificate No. 51

Full Name Harold S. Small, Sergeant Bat. A. 1st Mo. H. F.A.

PLACE OF DEATH  
County Mecklenberg 60  
Township Base Hosp. Camp Greene  
City Charlotte, N.C.

SEX Male COLOR OR RACE White SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Married  
(Write the word)

DATE OF BIRTH Unk  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

AGE 30 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds. or 0 hrs. 0 min.  
If LESS than 1 day

OCCUPATION  
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Soldier  
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) U. S. Army

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS

BIRTHPLACE Maine

PARENTS  
NAME OF FATHER Not Known  
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER DO  
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER DO  
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER DO

THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE  
(Informant) Base Hospital, Camp Greene  
(Address) Charlotte, N.C.  
Filed 12/5 1917 J. E. S. Davidson Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH  
DATE OF DEATH December 3, 1917  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from November 25, 1917 to December 3, 1917  
that I last saw him alive on December 3, 1917  
and that death occurred on the date above stated, at 12:45P m.  
The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:  
Lobar Pneumonia, acute.  
92  
Eight (8) days (Duration) yrs. mos. ds.

Contributory (Secondary) (Duration) yrs. mos. ds.  
(Signed) William J. McNeill M.D.  
Base Hosp. Camp Greene  
DEC-3-1917 (Address) Charlotte, N.C.

\*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents)  
At place of death yrs. mos. ds. In the State yrs. mos. ds.  
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?  
Former or usual residence.

PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Portland, Maine DATE OF BURIAL Dec 5, 1917  
UNDERTAKER L. A. HUNTER & SON ADDRESS Opportunity

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Harold Sumner Small's Death Certificate 1917

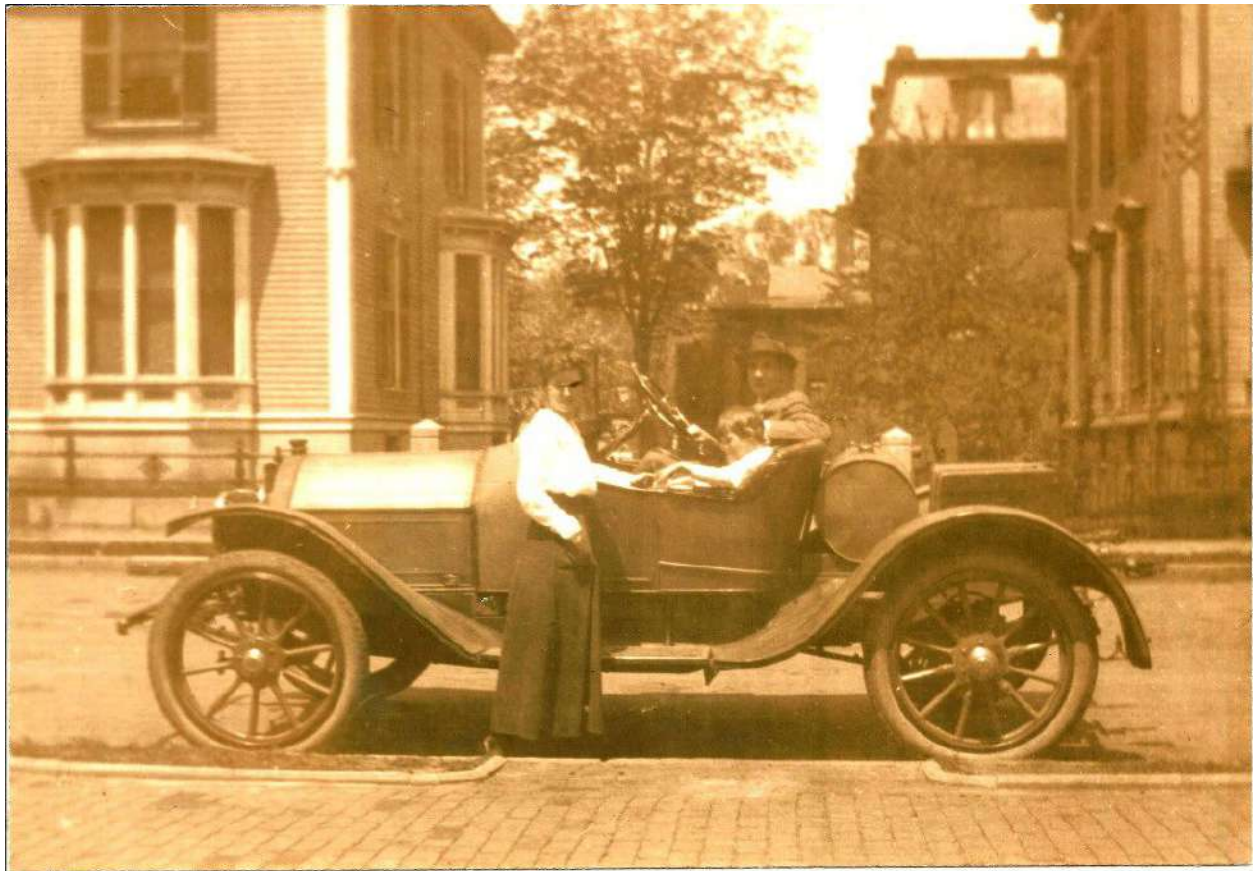
After his death, Viola moved to Needham, Massachusetts with Harold Small Jr.. She did not work again after Harold Sr.'s death.<sup>12</sup> In 1921, Viola would remarry to Wayne Earle Stiles, a Massachusetts native, and she and Harold Jr. would move in with him. Wayne Stiles was an architect for his own firm and was quite successful.<sup>13</sup> Harold Small Jr. would live with Wayne and Viola well into his mid-twenties and worked as a stock broker for much of his life. Both

Wayne Stiles, and Harold Sumner Small Jr. served in World War Two, and both survived.

Wayne Stiles died in 1953.<sup>14</sup> Viola, who outlived both of her husbands died in 1963. Harold

Sumner Small Jr. lived until 1990. All three lived in Massachusetts from 1918 until their deaths.

Viola was buried in between both of her husbands tombstones at the Evergreen Cemetery in Portland, Maine.<sup>15</sup>

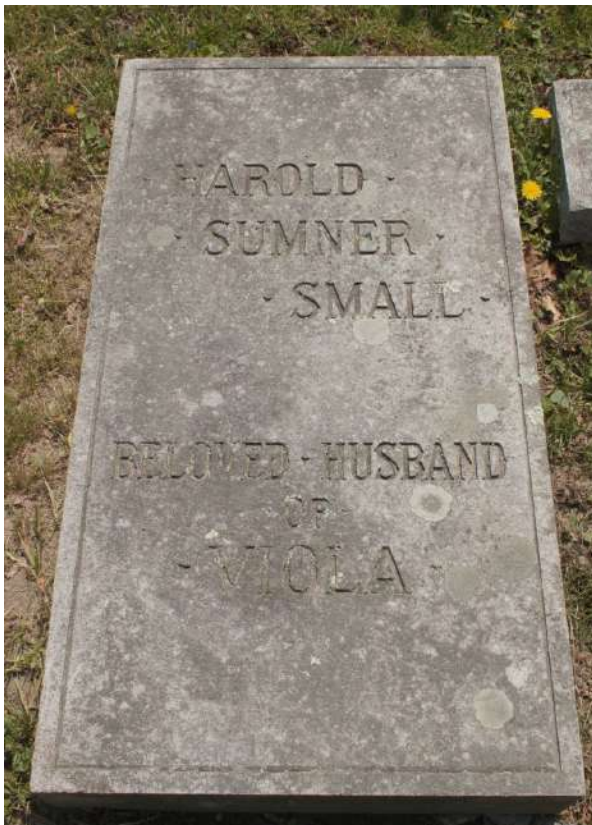


Wayne Stiles and his stepson Harold Jr. ride in the family car with Viola alongside





Tombstones from left to right: Harold Sumner Small, Viola Crouch Stiles, Wayne Earle Stiles



Close-up of Harold Sumner Small's Tombstone



## Endnotes

1. "Maine, Birth Records, 1715-1922 for Harold S Small." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2018.  
[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1960/31515\\_204239-07562?pid=1681547&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=MaineBirthRe&h=1681547&indiv=try&o\\_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=9105&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1960/31515_204239-07562?pid=1681547&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=MaineBirthRe&h=1681547&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=9105&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true).
2. "1900 United States Census for Harold S Small." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2018.  
[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4120203\\_00736?pid=2713927&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=7602&h=2713927&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&phsrc=hvN12&\\_phstart=successSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=hvN12&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7602/4120203_00736?pid=2713927&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=7602&h=2713927&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&phsrc=hvN12&_phstart=successSource&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hvN12&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true).
3. *ibid*
4. "Marriage License, Harold and Viola Small". *Ancestry*.
5. "Harold S Small Draft Card 1917." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2018.  
[https://www.ancestryclassroom.com/interactive/6482/005207067\\_01085?pid=26604995&backurl=https://search.ancestryclassroom.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gss%3Dangs-g%26new%3D1%26rank%3D1%26msT%3D1%26gsfn%3DHarold%2BSumner%26gsfn\\_x%3D1%26gsln%3DSmall%26gsln\\_x%3D1%26msypn\\_\\_ftp%3DMaine%252c%2BUSA%26msypn%3D22%26msypn\\_x%3D1%26msypn\\_\\_ftp\\_x%3D1%26catbucket%3Drstp%26MSAV%3D0%26pcat%3DROOT\\_CATEGORY%26h%3D26604995%26dbid%3D6482%26indiv%3D1%26ml\\_rpos%3D1%26hovR%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestryclassroom.com/interactive/6482/005207067_01085?pid=26604995&backurl=https://search.ancestryclassroom.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gss%3Dangs-g%26new%3D1%26rank%3D1%26msT%3D1%26gsfn%3DHarold%2BSumner%26gsfn_x%3D1%26gsln%3DSmall%26gsln_x%3D1%26msypn__ftp%3DMaine%252c%2BUSA%26msypn%3D22%26msypn_x%3D1%26msypn__ftp_x%3D1%26catbucket%3Drstp%26MSAV%3D0%26pcat%3DROOT_CATEGORY%26h%3D26604995%26dbid%3D6482%26indiv%3D1%26ml_rpos%3D1%26hovR%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true)
6. *ibid*
7. "Harold S Small Draft Card 1917."
8. "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976 for Harold S. Small." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2018.  
[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1121/S123\\_77-1981?pid=1725823&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=NCdeathCerts&h=1725823&indiv=try&o\\_cvc=Image:OtherRecord&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true#?imageId=S123\\_77-1981](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1121/S123_77-1981?pid=1725823&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=NCdeathCerts&h=1725823&indiv=try&o_cvc=Image:OtherRecord&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true#?imageId=S123_77-1981).
9. "Maine WWI Centennial Home." Finding The Lost Battalion - Home - World War I Centennial. Accessed June 10, 2018.  
<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/maine-wwi-centennial-home.html>.
10. "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976 for Harold S. Small."
11. "Maine WWI Centennial Home."
12. "1940 United States Federal Census for Viola Stiles"
13. *ibid*
14. "1940 United States Federal Census for Viola Stiles."
15. "Find A Grave: Harold S Small."

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"1940 United States Federal Census for Viola Stiles." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2018.

<https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2442/m-t0627-01628-00882/96302882?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/7844121/person/24059128962/facts/citation/100131019507/edit/record>. First census with new husband Wayne

"Find A Grave: Harold S Small." Find A Grave. Accessed June 9, 2018.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118447708/harold-s-small>. Pictures of Harold, Viola, and Wayne's tombstones and a yearbook photo of Harold from 1911 at Bowdoin College

"Harold S Small Draft Card 1917." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2018.

[https://www.ancestryclassroom.com/interactive/6482/005207067\\_01085?pid=26604995&backurl=https://search.ancestryclassroom.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gss%3Dangs-g%26new%3D1%26rank%3D1%26msT%3D1%26gsfn%3DHarold%2BSumner%26gsfn\\_x%3D1%26gsln%3DSmall%26gsln\\_x%3D1%26msynp\\_\\_ftp%3DMaine%252c%2BUSA%26msynp%3D22%26msynp\\_x%3D1%26msynp\\_\\_ftp\\_x%3D1%26catbucket%3Drs tp%26MSAV%3D0%26pcat%3DROOT\\_CATEGORY%26h%3D26604995%26dbid%3D6482%26indiv%3D1%26ml\\_rpos%3D1%26hovR%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestryclassroom.com/interactive/6482/005207067_01085?pid=26604995&backurl=https://search.ancestryclassroom.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?gss%3Dangs-g%26new%3D1%26rank%3D1%26msT%3D1%26gsfn%3DHarold%2BSumner%26gsfn_x%3D1%26gsln%3DSmall%26gsln_x%3D1%26msynp__ftp%3DMaine%252c%2BUSA%26msynp%3D22%26msynp_x%3D1%26msynp__ftp_x%3D1%26catbucket%3Drs tp%26MSAV%3D0%26pcat%3DROOT_CATEGORY%26h%3D26604995%26dbid%3D6482%26indiv%3D1%26ml_rpos%3D1%26hovR%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true) Harold S Small draft card, only document with his career mentioned

"Harold Small Jr. Birth Certificate." Ancestry. Accessed June 9, 2018. Proof of birth for Harold Sumner Small Jr.

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[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1121/S123\\_77-1981?pid=1725823&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=NCdeathCerts&h=1725823&indiv=try&o\\_cvc=Image:OtherRecord&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true#?imageId=S123\\_77-1981](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/1121/S123_77-1981?pid=1725823&backurl=https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=NCdeathCerts&h=1725823&indiv=try&o_cvc=Image:OtherRecord&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true#?imageId=S123_77-1981). Small's death certificate from Camp Greene

"Viola, Harold, and Wayne." Ancestry. Picture of the Small family in the 1940's